

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

OMB-01 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /069 W

-----093231 072010Z /73

R 070520Z JUN 78

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6283

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAGHDAD 1170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, IZ, EG

SUBJECT: IRAQI RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

1. ALTHOUGH WITH SLIGHTLY DIMINISHED FERVOR, IRAQI

MEDIA CONTINUE TO TAKE HARSH PUBLIC STANCE TOWARD EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT. SADAT IS DAILY VILLAIN OF VARIOUS NEGOTIATING AND CAPITULATIONIST SCENARIOS ALLEGEDLY DEVIED BY USG AND ISRAEL.

2. SADAT'S MOVES AGAINST OPPOSITION NEWSMEN HAVE

PROVIDED NEW FUEL FOR IRAQI PROPAGANDA. EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE HERE ARE RECEIVING FRONT PAGE SPACE IN BAGHDAD NEWSPAPERS AND PROMINENT TELEVISION COVERAGE FOR THEIR ATTACKS ON SADAT. MEDIA OF JUNE 4 REPORT EGYPTIAN NEWSMEN IN IRAQ HAVE SENT A NOTE TO THE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR REFUSING TO COOPERATE IN INVESTIGATION OF THEIR "PATRIOTIC AND NATIONALIST ACTIVITY." THEY URGED THE PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE SADAT INSTEAD FOR HIS "HIGH TREASON AGAINST THE PEOPLE INCLUDING HIS ACTIVITY FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY." NAMES OF

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THE JOURNALISTS ARE GIVEN AS SAAD ZAGHLOUL FOUAD, TAHER ABDUL HAKIN, SAAD AL-TAYEH, ABDUL MUNIM AL-GHAZALI, FETHI KHALIL ABDUL JALIL, SAFINAZ KADHUM AND AHMED IZZIDIN.

2. COMMENT: SADAT CONTINUES TO SHARE WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD DISTINCTION OF BEING PRIMARY ARAB TARGET FOR IRAQI PROPAGANDA. NONETHELESS, ARAB DIPLOMATS IN BAGHDAD HAVE

TAKEN NOTE OF CONTINUING HIGH LEVEL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND IRAQ IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS. TRADE HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN Affected, AND, AFTER INITIAL PANICKY EXODUS, MANY EGYPTIAN TECHNICIANS AND ADVISORS HAVE STAYED ON IN IRAQI MINISTRIES. ONE EXAMPLE WHICH CAME TO USINT'S ATTENTION WAS AN ENGINEER WORKING IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. WHILE EXPRESSING HIS FULL LOYALTY TO EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, HE PLANS TO CONTINUE HIS JOB AS A CONSULTANT ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

3. IN GENERAL, WE HAVE IMPRESSION IRAQ IS PREPARED TO DO BUSINESS WITH EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AT LARGE DESPITE ITS HARSH CONDEMNATION OF SADAT. IN THIS CONNECTION, CHIEF OF EGYPTIAN INTERESTS SECTION TELLS US THAT HIS OFFICE IS NOW RUNNING SMOOTHLY DESPITE AN INITIAL ROUGH START. HE DESCRIBES HIS ACCESS TO IRAQI OFFICIALS AS GOOD.

PECK

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## Message Attributes

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